

no mention of the use of benadryl nor pyribenzamine in the treatment of urticaria.

Sufficient place is not given in the book for a discussion of the histopathology of skin diseases. An increase in the number and quality of microphotographs would add to the value of such discussions. A chapter on x-ray and radium therapy also seems desirable.

The authors indicate that their book is designed mainly as a textbook for undergraduate students and as a practical aid for the general practitioner. Both of these aims are admirably accomplished.

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PROGRESS IN GYNECOLOGY. Edited by Joe V. Meigs, M.D., Clinical Professor of Gynecology, Harvard Medical School; Chief of the Vincent Memorial Hospital, the Gynecological Service of the Massachusetts General Hospital; Surgeon, Pondville Hospital; Gynecologist, Palmer Memorial Hospital, and Somers H. Sturgis, M.D., Chief, the Vincent Memorial Hospital Laboratory; Assistant Surgeon, Massachusetts General Hospital. Grune & Stratton, Inc., New York. 1946. Price \$7.50.

The book reviewer is in a unique position, in that he is expected not only to be appreciative, but the public also expects him to be discriminatory. This review will attempt to fulfill both of these responsibilities.

First off, one can say of the volume entitled "Progress in Gynecology" that it is well conceived. There is a real need for such a volume, and we hope that it may reappear at appropriate intervals. For the sake of those who are interested in the woman as a whole, which all gynecologists should be, one could wish that the childbearing function with its special features and interests could have been reflected in the title and the content. Gynecology can no longer neglect reproduction. To do so is to consider the plant only and not its real function, which is equally to perpetuate. But such omissions are characteristic of a few centers of learning, and this volume, fine as it is, goes along with an outmoded trend. True, there are fine chapters on infertility and sterility as well as habitual abortion, but these are the characteristic American gynecologist's obeisance to necessary office practice, which inevitably involves pregnancy. One wonders when we will be able to train men to be equally wise and interested in reproduction as well as in the non-reproductive functions of the adult woman.

Having engaged in these animadversions, some of which are admittedly philosophical, we should turn to a consideration of the virtues of this fine volume.

In the first place, each section is written by a person well equipped to express an opinion upon the subject concerned. As this is in essence a progress report, one must tolerate brevity, which is evident in each chapter. This characteristic makes it valuable from the point of view of conversant gynecologists, as well as those well read general surgeons who may thumb its pages, and we hope there may be many.

After careful appraisal one may admit that perhaps this is a unique volume, in that even with its brief consideration of a strictly gynecological sphere, it not only covers recent progress, but it

also ties in familiarly with the past. In other words, it is a progress report, but it is also a connecting link. In this achievement its editors are to be congratulated, for this is really good teaching.

It would be a mistake to analyze too closely, because the various chapters have been written by different individuals, some of whom have gone into considerable helpful detail while others have sketched a brief outline. This latter statement is so true that it may be that brevity has been considered to be too much of a virtue. However, it must be admitted that after careful perusal of many of the sections one cannot but wonder why the author could not have been more candid and have stated more clearly what he thought with regard to vaginal prolapse, or cervicitis, or lymphadenectomy, and so on.

From the foregoing it is clear that the reviewer is beset by mixed emotions, that he considers this innovation in gynecological literature an interesting and valuable contribution, but is lost in wondering just what group in the medical profession is to be profited most by its perusal. The general idea is admirable, and many sections are helpful—but others are not so useful. It may be that this is to be expected of a progress report. In all fairness we must say that this contribution is worthy of mature consideration. It will meet the needs of many who are seeking gynecological support.

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PENICILLIN IN SYPHILIS. By Dr. J. Earle Moore, Associate Professor of Medicine and Adjunct Professor of Public Health Administration, The Johns Hopkins University; Physician-in-Charge Syphilis Division of the Medical Clinic and Visiting Physician, The Johns Hopkins Hospital; Chairman, Syphilis Study Section, National Institute of Health, United States Public Health Service; Chairman, Subcommittee on Venereal Diseases, National Research Council. Published February 1, 1947, by Charles C. Thomas, Springfield, Illinois. Price \$5.00.

This is the first book to appear in which the special problems of antisyphilitic therapy are considered in detail in relation to penicillin. It is very much worth while, as it comes at a time when the general literature is extremely confusing. Dr. Moore presents the subject clearly and concisely, and one is amazed that he is able to fill 300 pages without the inclusion of any irrelevant material. The result is a clear and logical analysis of the position that penicillin holds in antisyphilitic therapy today with predictions as to the probable direction of future investigation.

Nearly half the book is devoted to the chemistry and pharmacology of penicillin and the results of its use in experimental syphilis in animals. One should not pass over this part of the book to get at the clinical material, for to do so is to miss a number of facts that make some of the curious results of treatment in human syphilis more or less comprehensible.

The greater part of the clinical section is devoted to the use of penicillin in early syphilis and in neurosyphilis, since it has been used extensively and critically only in these stages of the disease. The most complete and systematic investigation of the results of penicillin therapy has been in connection with early syphilis. In spite of grave difficulties

in evaluation, there are presented some fairly well established principles of therapy together with the results of the clinical studies on which they are based. No extensive data are available except in the use of soluble penicillin, but it is thought by Dr. Moore that the results of penicillin in peanut oil-beeswax will probably be satisfactory if a large enough dose is used over a long period of time.

In neurosyphilis, the problems of proper evaluation are even greater and there is greater divergence of opinion among the various investigators. It is agreed, however, that penicillin does have a definite value in producing both serologic and clinical improvement in many patients with various types of neurosyphilis. In parenchymatous neurosyphilis, particularly in paresis and taboparesis, penicillin should be used as an adjunct to fever therapy rather than in place of it.

In latent syphilis, penicillin is not recommended and it certainly is not indicated when there is only a persistently positive Wassermann in an already adequately treated patient. Wassermann fastness in latent syphilis, provided the spinal fluid is negative, is without clinical significance and should be disregarded.

In other late manifestations of syphilis, penicillin has been used to some extent with some success but no special advantage has been demonstrated, except in the prevention of congenital syphilis. When used in pregnant syphilitic women, it has been completely safe and has reduced the transmission of the infection to the infant almost to the vanishing point.

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SUPPLEMENT ON STATE MEDICINE. By J. Weston Walch. Published January 1, 1947. J. Weston Walch, Publisher, Portland, Maine.

This slender 52-page item is a continuation of the "Complete Handbook On State Medicine" published by the same gentleman in 1946. It attempts to list in abstract a remarkable series of journals and documents for and against State medicine. Its closing pages consist of a useful "Who's-Who on State Medicine."

The spelling of some of the names is not always correct. The type is readable. The booklet is recommended to speakers and writers dealing with this chronic and deplorable problem.

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A SYNOPSIS OF SURGICAL ANATOMY. By Alexander Lee McGregor, M.Ch. (Edin.), F.R.C.S. (Eng.), Surgeon, Johannesburg General Hospital, Lecturer on Surgical Anatomy, University of Witwatersrand. With a foreword by Sir Harold J. Stiles, K.B.E., F.R.C.S. (Edin.). Sixth Edition. With 699 illustrations by Dr E. A. Thomas. 1946. The Williams & Wilkins Company, Baltimore.

A fundamental knowledge of anatomy is essential to the surgeon who wishes to operate with skill, dexterity, gentleness, and unhurried ease. This fundamental knowledge of anatomy does not include a detailed mastery of a galaxy of impractical anatomical facts but rather requires an understanding of certain embryological and anatomical data directly related to clinical surgery. The choice of material which will be most valuable to the surgeon must be carefully selected, and its presentation

must clarify clinical problems and surgical approaches.

"A Synopsis of Surgical Anatomy" is written by a general surgeon now in active practice, but one who taught anatomy in the dissecting-room as a foundation for a surgical career. The choice of subject matter is excellent; the correlation between anatomy and clinical surgery is admirably achieved. The book is written in synopsis form, so that desired information is immediately available without fruitless pages of description. The illustrations are diagrammatic, adequate, and all prepared by Dr. E. A. Thomas. The book is pocket-sized and only 670 pages in length. Classical references are given as footnotes for each section, and the contents of the book are presented as separate essays, each being complete in itself. The book can be used as a handy reference.

It is written in two parts. Part 1 is an outline of normal anatomy of organs susceptible to surgical approach and therapy. Potential surgical complications are discussed, and brief notes of clinical signs are given. Anatomical relationships, surgical errors and safeguards are emphasized. Part 2 deals with the anatomy of common developmental errors, functional anatomy of bones and joints, and the anatomy of clinical signs and certain diseases, such as backache, hand infections, abscesses. It includes the anatomical basis and aims of operations on the sympathetic nervous system. The anatomy of surgical procedures and surgical approaches to all organs are described.

This book will be very valuable to the surgeon who wishes quickly to review the anatomy of a particular area. It contains much more information than the "Military Surgical Manual" on anatomy but its illustrations do not compare with the latter book. It is more concise and factual than Callendar's "Surgical Anatomy," yields an adequate amount of practical information more quickly, but is not of the detailed or masterful scope of the latter work either in its illustrations or printed material. This book can be recommended as a good compendium on surgical anatomy for student and surgeon.

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APHASIA: A GUIDE TO RETRAINING. By Captain Louis Granich, U. S. Army Medical Administration Corps. 108 pages, 1947. Grune & Stratton, Inc., New York. Price \$2.75.

This compact little volume is the work of a clinical psychologist. It is based upon the author's experience with about three hundred soldiers suffering from injuries to the brain sustained during The Second World War. No effort has been made to separate purely aphasic defects from the agnosias and apraxias. Emphasis is laid on the importance of associated physical handicaps such as epilepsy, hemiplegia and hemianopia, reactive phenomena, including irritability, depression and obsessive-compulsive trends, and an understanding of the catastrophic reaction "to certain experiences of failure."

The methods of analysis used in determining the